

Westminster Police Department

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Closure of the ACE Grant Funded Satellite Office

On September 30, 2012, the ACE (Asian Criminal Enterprise) grant will end for the Westminster Police Department's Special Investigations Unit. The ACE grant was first awarded to the Special Investigations Unit in 2008 and funded the Westminster Police Department's satellite office, as well as numerous types of intricate and involved investigations into various Asian criminal organizations. The implementation of this grant was supported by Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez, Congressman Ed Royce, and Congressman Dana Rohrabacher. The central purpose of the ACE grant was to reduce the incidence of crime that stem from Asian criminal enterprises, increase police presence in the Little Saigon area of Westminster, identify, investigate, and dismantle criminal enterprises, increase the community's accessibility to the Westminster Police Department, and share intelligence information with other justice partners.

With the ACE grant, the Westminster Police Department was able to fund a team of four detectives, who were led by Detective Sergeant Mike Chapman, and assign them to the satellite office located in the Little Saigon area. The team initiated investigations into Asian criminal enterprises that operated within the Little Saigon area and found immediate success in identifying the criminal enterprises and persons involved. Their investigations led them into the various parts of the United States, as well as outside the Country, resulting in large money and asset seizures, drug and weapon seizures, and numerous arrests resulting in the dismantling of the criminal enterprises. In total, they seized 3.6 million dollars in cash, 35 firearms, 63 kilos of cocaine, 12 pounds of methamphetamine, 2.5 pounds of heroin, 125,000 ecstasy pills, 600,000 counterfeit goods, and they solved a cold case Asian gang homicide from 2001.

Because of their success, FBI assigned a Special Agent to the office to assist, and Fountain Valley PD assigned another detective, and there were coordinated efforts with the DEA, ATF, and other federal agencies.

With the ending of the ACE grant, the team of Westminster police detectives will close the Little Saigon satellite office (15496 Magnolia St.) and return to the police department where they will continue to operate.